[Translation]

Shortage of Levy Sugar

2098. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government may run out of sugar for distribution through the Public Distribution System by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, whether according to the Ministry there is a shortfall of 10 lakh tonnes in the levy sugar and no sugar would be available for channelising into the Public Distribution System in the last quarter of this year ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the policy to bring back the incentive scheme to open sugar units set up after 1994 has resulted in lower to the leavy sugar stock for 1997-98 ;

(e) whether the Government propose to explore option of getting the sugar on loan from the cooperative and private sugar manufacturers for channelising into the levy system ; and

(f) the other steps being considered to bridge the gap between demand and supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The sugar production during the current crushing season 1996-97 is estimated at about 130 lakh tonnes. After meeting the requirement of levy sugar upto 30th September, 1997, the availability of levy sugar would be about 4.92 lakh tonnes. So far no estimates of sugarcane production for the season 1997-98 are available, and as such, the exact position about production of sugar and its availability for levy cannot be estimated at this stage. The position will be reviewed after receipt of estimates of sugarcane and sugar production from the State Governments.

(d) The Government have formulated a new incentive scheme for the letters of intent issued after 31.3.1994 for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing units. It generally takes 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory and as such there would not be any major impact on the availability of levy sugar on account of new Incentive Scheme.

(e) and (f) The position about availability of levy sugar will be reviewed when firm estimates of sugar production during 1997-98 season are available.

[English]

Voluntary Organisations in Assam

2099. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of voluntary organisations working for women welfare in Assam and the amount sanctioned to them during each of the last three years ;

(b) whether a few schemes are lying pending with the Union Government for allocation of funds ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Grants in aid are sanctioned by this Ministry for implementation of Schemes for the Welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, handicapped, aged, street children and other socially and economically disadvantaged beneficiaries thereof include men, women and children.

Assessment of North-Eastern Council

2100. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI JAGMOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the work done by the North Eastern Council since its inception in 1972 ;

(b) whether the seven State Government of the North Eastern region have expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the said Council ;

(c) whether the Council has failed to secure speedy development of infrastructure in the region ; and

(d) the remedial measures in hand, or being contemplated to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a)The work done by the North Eastern Council is reviewed by the Government on an annual basis.

(b) to (d) The states of the North Eastern region have been demanding restructuring of North Eastern Council for further speedy development of infrastructure in the Region. It has therefore, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the inclusion of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters so that the Council can concentrate on economic development.

The scope of the Schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of Inter-State character.

Functioning of SFCI

2101. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) has improved its working and profitability during 1996-97 in comparison to the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to create the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director in SFCI ;

(d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) There has been some improvement in the working and profitability of State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) in the last three years, including in 1996-97. While the profit for 1996-97 was estimated at about Rs. 2.55 crores, the final picture has not emerged as the accounts have not yet been finalised. Details regarding physical and financial achievements of SFCI for the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The present arrangement of a part time chairman and a full time Managing Director is considered suitable for SFCI

Statement

Year-wise profit/loss of SFCI since 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Profit (+)/Loss (-)
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+)281.67
1995-96	(+)117.47
1996-97	(+)255.31 (Estimated)

Total production of SFCI since 1993-94

(Qty. in lakh quintals)

Year	Kharif	Rabi	Total
1993-94	1.99	1.78	3.77
1994-95	3.10	2.22	5.32
1995-96	3.25	2.53*	5.78
1996-97	3.20	2.03 Estimated	5.23 Estimated

* Note : Including 0.68 lakh quintals tomato produced by a private party at Suratgarh and Ladhowal farms.

Residential Schools for SC/ST/OBC Students

2102. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of residential schools for scheduled Csstes/Scheduled Tribes/OBC in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up such more schools in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed for the same ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A Statement showing the number of residential schools for SCs and STs set up/ sanctioned/ assisted by the Ministry of Welfare in different States/ UTs is attached. No residential school has been set up/sanctioned/assisted in respect of OBCs by the Ministry of Welfare.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details will be finalised, keeping in view the proposals recieved from the State Govts./UT Administrations/ Non Governmental Organisations.

(d) Question does not arise.